

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 17, 2009**

PRESENT: Diane Ripple, Raquel Mehring, Barb Holtz, Michelle DuBord, Don Harris, Joe Vitale, Jim Pearson, Ron Pupp, Meg Kasprovicz, Bill Boldon, Judy Hickey, Nichole Hunkins, Ed Cohen, Sara Carpenter, Missy Kueht-Becker, Shirley Wehmeier, Kim Sue Lamster

STAFF PRESENT: Jesús Mireles, Peter Slesar

Jim Pearson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sara Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Raquel Mehring to approve the minutes of June 18, 2009 and July 16, 2009. The motion was voted on and carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported that more information on H1N1 will be presented at the next meeting of the Health and Human Services Board/Committee scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009. He also spoke about a couple of bills that might be of interest – AB214 Termination of Parental Rights, AB296, AB297, and AB298 Placing a Child with Relative.

ISSUE SEGMENT: SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES/FAMILY

Michelle DuBord reported that we will hear from four different agencies today under the Safe & Stable Families Program.

Waukesha Mentor Program presented by Bill Boldon – The Waukesha Mentor Program provides mentoring services to boys and girls ages 6 to 17 who are severally emotionally disturbed (SED). These youth are referred from the Department of Health and Human Services and are either at risk for being removed from their home or have been temporarily removed from their home due to mental health issues or aggressive behaviors. Mentoring is individualized to meet the specific needs of the client and may include any of the following activities: Teaching Social Skills, Confliction Resolution, Anger Management, etc.

Currently we are serving six clients, three in Family Preservation and three in Family Reunification, and are waiting to assign mentors to three new referrals. To become a mentor you need to be a high school graduate and have taken their training program which teaches you how to recognize situations and alternate ways of dealing/managing aggressive behaviors.

Prevention & Protection of Abused Children (PPAC) presented by Raquel Mehring – The Supervised Visitation Program was created in 1986 at the request of Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. Supervised Visitation provides children an opportunity to visit with their non-custodial parent while a permanency plan is being formulated or during violence, custody disputes, or for other safety reasons. PPAC is seen as a neutral party as most of these cases may require court testimony or legal intervention. Three visitation rooms

are available with a comfortable family age appropriate setting. Most referrals reside in Waukesha County; some are from Family Court Counseling, local attorneys, or self referrals. There are many levels of visitation depending on what the family needs are including drop in's, observation, supportive, educational, emergency, etc. Supervised Visitation services promote optimal family functioning opportunities and healthy childhood outcomes. The program's outcomes are that children are safe during supervised visitation, the child maintains a relationship with parent, and that children are placed in a safe environment.

Healthy Families of Waukesha County presented by Shirley Wehmeier – Healthy Families of Waukesha is an in-home support program to promote healthy families. They employ high quality staff who are trained on the critical elements necessary for good home visitation. The Healthy Families program is a voluntary program with two levels of programming: one level provides intensive in-home parent education services for up to five years, and the second level, the Bridges program is a shorter program that is less intense and is for older children. Once an in-home Family Support person is assigned to the family, they work with the family to help strengthen their support systems, and assists the new parents in identifying their needs while accessing appropriate community resources and improving their ability to become self-sufficient. Shirley shared a success story with the group.

Lutheran Social Services Attachment Therapy Program presented by Rebecca Simon – Children in the Attachment Therapy Program experience trauma at an early age, of which, some children may have experienced multiple traumas including abuse, neglect, and numerous placements. The trauma usually result in the children having difficulty trusting and attaching to their families. A large population of the children are international adoptions. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) work is done with children who have been removed from the source of the trauma and are now permanently placed in a safe family. The therapy is intensive and has a strong parenting component, whereby parents are taught tools to manage the significant behaviors demonstrated by their child. The two major outcomes for this program are: 1) 80% of the children living in an out-of-home placement at the time of referral will successfully return home to live during therapy and 2) 80% of the children receiving treatment will remain intact with no out-of-home placements (except for respite).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact James Pearson.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jesus Mireles reported that the committee met last in August. Teri O'Grady will be the new chairperson and we looking forward to having her lead our group. The committee is looking at developing a resource fair for parents and providers for sharing services that families could use and that are available for children with special needs. The Department will also be receiving stimulus funding for the Birth to Three program.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 11th Annual Fundraiser for the Mediation & Restorative Justice Center will be held on October 1st from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the historic Chandler House near Carroll University in Waukesha.

The Recreation Department will be offering “Music Maker and More Adaptive Music Class” for children ages 1-5 years at the New Berlin Community Center. Cost is \$10.00 for families. Contact Sarah at 262-366-0665 or visit www.musicmakerandmore.com

Mark you calendars for October 3, 2009 for collection of prescription drugs. This is being offered in cooperation with the drug free coalition and the Waukesha community.

Parenting with Love & Logic, held Tuesdays, November 3 – December 8, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Parents Place. Call 262-549-5575 to register.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved on _____
(Date)